

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Approved 2/25/13

COUNTY OF NEWPORT

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Workshop on Thursday, the 6th day of February 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tiverton Community Center, 345 Judson Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor President Roderick, Vice-President deMedeiros, Councilor Arruda, Councilor Chabot, Councilor Gerlach, Councilor Lambert and Councilor Pelletier

Town Administrator was also present.

1. Call To Order

Council President Roderick called the Council to order with a pledge of allegiance to the flag and roll call.

Discussion on Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Budget

Councilor Roderick opened workshop to review and discuss FY 2013/14 budget received from T/A dated 2/4/13. Town Administrator also handed out summary sheet of proposed adjustments.

Town Administrator began discussion of proposed budget cuts as suggested at last Council meeting. New proposed budget is reduced

\$191,322. First landfill closure reduced by \$68,304 to even \$100,000. Since nothing budgeted this year was big jump to add the \$168,000. T/A informed the Landfill Sub-committee. Councilor deMedeiros questioned when the Landfill Sub-committee would be coming before Council. Councilor Lambert mentioned at the last committee meeting; thought Council may want to discuss issues beyond budget.

Committee will be meeting with Budget Committee before end of February regarding long term plans, available plan, possibility of contractor's discussions and types of plans for closure and estimated costs. Landfill Committee is in the process of getting representatives of different companies to explain possible plans. When Pare Engineering originally asked to come up with closure plan we accepted their estimates as to cost and timetable for closure, one of the factual assumptions made with estimate between high and low cost. Used other estimates and factual assumptions to come up with recommendations which were eventually presented to Town Council and were adopted. Budget issues are just that, now logically moving to next step which is what type of closure plans are available and range of costs. According to DPW Director Berlucchi was trying to get information on types of plans and closures by end of February.

For thirty some years Town has not provided appropriate funding for the closure. Pare Engineers made some recommendations which were approved by previous Town Council for funding program. One was to have recycling program and to have funds available to pay cash when eventual closure date came. Included in funding was the

need of the \$168,000 appropriation over next four or five years. That was committee recommendation and that of Pare Engineering. Not a single factual function has change nor has the timetable changed. No one at Pare Eng. or the Landfill Committee has been asked to change the recommendation. The goals of the plan as originally recommended have worked. Recycling increase of approximately 50%. PAYT bag cost was also calculated in and it all made sense at the time. Attitude of Landfill Committee is recommendations made, time to move on; the funds are a budget issue. Did job told to do, made Town aware of consequences. In regards to T/A reducing budget, hopes will gradually get back where should be.

Councilor Roderick all know the initial planning was to factor in the \$168,000 with the PAYT. Last year taken out of budget completely. Laura Epke of B/C stated ran several ways and felt lot of assumptions, interest rates, etc. Pare engineering also had lot of assumptions on inflation rate, tonnage, recycling amount, etc.

Councilor Gerlach encouraged that Landfill Committee willing to meet with Council and look at long term Plan, post cap may dictate what type of closure the funding needed. Councilor Lambert at this point it's flexible. With technology may need to revisit, could need more or less.

T/A continued with Wastewater Management loan. Budget Comm had given him the idea which is on Council agenda Monday evening. Requesting release of legal funds in carry forwards that appears will

not be needed since all contracts negotiated and fortunately no arbitration. Funding totals \$61,589, will ask release and use of \$51,000 to pay the loan in full. Remaining amount is requested to go to future needs account. Councilor Roderick questioned if would pay any less for interest and carrying charges when pay in full. T/A responded only minimal costs to date for those charges. Councilor deMedeiros questioned balance in future needs account currently, \$78,000. T/A responded \$65,000 will be used this year to fund some changes negotiated in contracts and will probably need little more. If don't need will go back to general fund. Now asking for \$15,000 in budget to negotiate Teamsters contract.

Health/Dental Insurance was reduced by \$115,223 for health insurance and Dental \$5,388. Spoke to representative for health insurance and indicated needed better numbers but they won't have for another week or two but did state rates may not go up next year; so reduced by the prior budgeted projected increases of 7% .

Budget Committee requested a small budget so added \$250 to video five meetings. Future needs account adding \$15,000. Those represent changes in budget to date. Percentage of increase over last year is 3.4%, in January was roughly 4.2% increase. Councilor Roderick questioned roughly how this comes together with the school requests. T/A responded totals \$47,434,110. Additional information on revenue and value of Town needed to consider. Councilor Roderick stated good start but personally feels needs

another pass and see what other cuts can be made.

Councilor Pelletier raised the night vision goggles still in the budget for \$2,000 that can be removed and questioned the account titled new website. Councilor Gerlach also raised questions on new website and the \$5000 account for existing website. Questioned identifying in-house resource to eliminate the \$5,000 maintenance account. There is currently cost of \$93 a month for our email host Big Dog. T/A the new website account is to populate the new site and transfer the data. Councilor Arruda that is usually common cost to handle data when transferring websites. Will be going with RI.Gov which will not cost but they will only design the website. Need to take all the information from old site to this site. Councilor Pelletier suggested next time talking to RI.Gov check if they do collaborative hosting site and email. The current one is old technology and doesn't work well. T/A webmaster will be replaced hopefully with someone in-house but will need negotiation.

Councilor Gerlach feels if one time cost to transfer information seems reasonable, but the bigger cost is the maintenance. T/A stated will not find someone in-house to do with regular duties; will want some type of stipend.

Councilor Pelletier had attended the Harbor Costal Mgt Comm meeting and they discussed sending request for fee of \$400.00 to apply for water quality certificate. Perhaps could add to the budget,

not sure when do. Also raised issue eliminated in Harbor Management budget any reference to pump out services and wondering if Council would consider keeping line item in or recommending partial funding since forecasting up to 18 months in future. Hate to see if opportunity comes up for pump out business there would be no funding mechanism.

Councilor deMedeiros opined Council voted against the pump out boat. Councilor Gerlach if not award the contract, next step wouldn't require the funding to match contract. Councilor Pelletier noted only not awarded specific contract, if later did consider would have no mechanism for funding. Councilor deMedeiros opined since not voted for that program now, would be irresponsible for this budget while needing cuts. Can look at again in future budgets.

Councilor Pelletier respectfully disagreed. Have to do if looking forward and progressive. Now have more talks of planning; are way ahead of years ago where had no foresight, are in better position. Should take policy positions as to whether considered finished or talk in good faith. Town Clerk informed this item will be on Monday's agenda.

Councilor Gerlach questioned if Treasurer had any headway on TIF bond refinancing. Councilor Chabot questioned the street light account, remained the same. Councilor Arruda also has concerns on that account. T/A had information, will cost nothing to cap but to turn

back on will cost \$25 per light and will have to make decision within 3 years to either turn back on or they will remove the fixture and depending on fixture will determine cost at our expense. Not much savings over the 3 years, only saving is the wattage. Nationalgrid is doing an analysis for us to see if able to save. Add lights with each subdivision. Councilor Pelletier questioned if made any headway with the design of lights in subdivision to have shine down lights with lower energy. T/A informed go before Planning Board. Clerk doesn't recall if ever approved, will check records.

Councilor Chabot questioned if the library had reduced the health component in their budget. T/A mentioned to library director and will double check. Councilor Pelletier suggests wait until final numbers come in from Trust.

Councilor Chabot questioned the new item Eastern RI Conservation District and if same as Eastern RI Cooperative Extension. Discussion followed. Will further research not felt to be the same. Questioned criteria to add new requests for donating funds. T/A only considers if service the community, doesn't entertain if not serving Tiverton residents.

Town Clerk raised issue if Council going to handle zoning rewrite and comprehensive plan next year. Need additional funds for advertising and public hearings.

Councilor Chabot raised issue of department head increases and timeframe when decisions will be made. Doesn't want taxpayers thinking that is amount they make on docket if it is not. Went through with Treasurer, need to show what currently making and unless decision before budget finalized should be back to current salaries and not indicate increase. Should be in future needs. T/A informed on February 28 will come to Council with model contract worked on in conjunction with dept heads and immediately following will be reviews and intent to give all dept heads in this fiscal year a salary raise based on their contract date. Some would be retroactive. Councilor Pelletier likes the idea of a funding a pool up to 85 or 90% knowing not all get a 3% raise every year and allows for flexibility. Not all get the full increase; need fund percentage in pool of money fund. T/A agreed that how future needs account got established.

Laura Epke still helpful to know what kind of raises dept heads give when consider Town Clerk and Treasurer salaries, taxpayers also want to see actuals. Part of problem been budgeting but not given and unclear. Councilor Chabot opines until accomplished and approved by T/C doesn't feel should be in each individual account. Councilor Pelletier also requested getting all titles in budget for dept salaries the same, need consistency. Councilor Roderick agrees need to clarify personnel services and titles. Questioned if Council would have these figures for salaries prior to finalizing budget to B/C. Laura Epke informed their deadline is April 7th. Lengthy discussion followed as to percentage of raises from anticipated this year and

next year combined and whether or not would increase the base line for next year's projections. T/A suggests won't make that big a difference in the budget for next year since this year's raises will be retroactive only to anniversary date of contracts. The Senior Director and Tax Assessor have had their longevity rolled into their salary. No longer doing longevity for dept heads. Town Administrator agreed number might be a little low; will recalculate and also address funding pool for salaries in separate account. Any previous funds left in salaries have gone back to general fund.

Councilor Arruda questioned computer account in municipal court. Clerk advised is being used in conjunction with the police department providing new software for traffic court. Also addressed issue of computer repairs and services on each individual department with no technical support in-house. Councilor Gerlach suggested in the capital 5 year plan careful consideration should be given to a technician. T/A tried making everything uniform with the new service, etc but Clerk office has state and land evidence computers. Had difficulty with being compatible to new server. Councilor Arruda suggests give better look at it next year little late for this process.

Councilor Arruda also questioned the truck rental discussed at last meeting for Maintenance Director. Concern with insurance, while on Town duty. What would happen when this employee leaves, questioned the tool expense every year. T/A he may not be using every year, some tools break. He also uses some of his own tools.

Councilor Arruda asked if inventory of the Town tools. T/A discussed with Treasurer on software. Town has inventory on capitol expenses but nothing kept for all little items. Treasurer and he will be looking for some type of program and will do physical inventory. Councilor Arruda, need for some inventory and knowledge of what Town owns; need accountability. Councilor Chabot agreed and questioned if any receipts are given.

Councilor Arruda also perhaps take \$10,000 off street lights.

Councilor Chabot asked if fuel monitoring system has been reviewed.

T/A stated representative is coming in Friday. Was discussed at staff meeting and whether or not worth spending that amount of money. Fire, police and DPW use the fuel and they thought would be good idea. Would make easier to track all the departments that use fuel from the DPW pumps. Would regulate who uses. School dept also uses and fills jugs of fuel as well as vehicles. This would make all accounted for.

Councilor Arruda questioned custodial travel and budget of \$6,500. T/A informed also includes maintenance foreman and cost of rolling fields, rentals for roller, etc. Some should probably be charged to recreation. Councilor Arruda raised issue of mileage reports and truck rentals. T/A informed only janitor fills out mileage reports maintenance does too much running around all day. Several Councilors suggest need for mileage reports and accountability. Councilor Gerlach suggests multiple issues, custodial travel has

other charges and question as to better tracking moving forward with mileage and be able to get more realistic numbers.

Councilor Roderick need to have discussion on mileage issue. Will schedule another workshop.

David Perry, Chairman of the B/C questioned the police pension numbers. Will be discussed tomorrow evening at their meeting and questioned the funding. Councilor Roderick advised still looking at that portion. Based on the ARC and was error in estimate prior year.

At this time Councilor Roderick called for motion to adjourn the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Pelletier motioned, seconded by Councilor deMedeiros to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST:

Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk